

# The Victorian Naturalist.

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## FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB OF VICTORIA.

THE ordinary monthly meeting of the Club was held in the Royal Society's Hall on Monday evening, 11th November, 1912.

Mr. J. A. Kershaw, F.E.S., one of the vice-presidents, occupied the chair, and about 40 members and visitors were present.

### REPORTS.

A report of the excursion to Laverton on Saturday, 19th October, was given by the leader, Mr. C. French, jun., who stated that an interesting afternoon had been spent in traversing the district between Laverton and North Williamstown. At Altona Bay several old aboriginal camping-grounds were visited, and some stone relics obtained.

A report of the excursion to Alphington for pond-life on Saturday, 26th October, was given by the leader, Mr. J. Searle, who reported a very profitable afternoon, a large variety of specimens of microscopic life having been obtained.

A report of the excursion to the You Yangs on Tuesday, 5th November (Cup Day), was given by the leader, Mr. F. G. A. Barnard, who said that the party had experienced a most unpleasant day, a strong wind prevailing all day, and rendering rambling among the rocks dangerous at times, consequently the natural history results were practically nothing. The parts visited were almost the same as on the previous excursion in November, 1908, which was fully reported in the *Naturalist* of the following month. The party was rather small, but it included two ladies, who expressed themselves pleased with the ten-mile walk, notwithstanding the unpleasantness of the weather. The typical shrub of the foothills, *Prostanthera nivea*, is a charming sight when in flower, but, probably on account of the dry spring, was just passed its best. On the hills the Blue Gum, *Eucalyptus globulus*, was better in flower than on many previous visits, while many of the Black Wattles, *Acacia mollissima*, were in fine bloom, and scenting the air for many yards round.

A report of the excursion to Coode Island on Saturday, 9th November, was given by the leader, Mr. J. R. Tovey, who said that a fairly large party of members, including several ladies, had availed themselves of the opportunity of a motor-boat trip to the island in order to see how the numerous accidentally-introduced plants behaved in their new surroundings. It was

noted that, as on the previous excursion, reported in the *Naturalist* for May last, many of the plants that were in flower had been recorded as flowering at other periods of the year, showing that they had not yet settled down to our seasons. The exotic *Galenia secunda* (N.O. Ficoideæ) was flowering in great profusion, the flowers being of various shades from pink to white. Fully sixty exotics were noted either in flower or fruit, at least three of which seem to be unrecorded introductions. In an enclosure near the quarantine station several native plants, such as *Dillwynia ericifolia*, *Lepidium ruderale*, *Didiscus pilosus*, &c., were found in bloom.

The junior excursion arranged for Springvale for Saturday, 2nd November, under the leadership of Mr. C. French, jun., had to be abandoned owing to inclement weather.

#### ELECTIONS.

On a ballot being taken, Masters T. A. Alexander, "The Grange" School, South Yarra, and T. Weigall, Ninian's-road, Brighton, were duly elected junior members of the Club.

#### GENERAL BUSINESS.

Dr. T. S. Hall, M.A., drew the attention of members to the forthcoming meetings of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science, to be held in Melbourne in January, 1913, and emphasized the advantages of these meetings, especially to the younger members, who would have opportunities of meeting many of the leaders of science from other States.

Dr. Sutton, whilst stating the objects of the newly-formed Forests League, pointed out the evil effects resulting from forest denudation.

Mr. J. Gabriel related the wasteful methods of wood-cutters in the Bendigo district fifty years ago, and contrasted them with the systems in operation in the forests of Germany and Russia.

Mr. A. D. Hardy, F.L.S., briefly outlined the work that had been done in Victoria by the Forests Department, and explained the working of the *Forests Act*.

#### PAPER READ.

I. By Messrs. J. G. O'Donoghue and P. R. H. St. John, entitled "Further Notes on the Brisbane Range."

The authors, in an interesting paper, described a rather extensive trip taken in September, 1911, with the view of adding to the ornithological and botanical records of the district. Starting from Lara, they bore north-westerly towards Sutherland's Creek, where they obtained specimens of a eucalyptus which may prove to be a new species. Passing on through